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CONTEMPORARY ECHOES

FOR A WAR COUNCIL

(From the Houston Post)

Nothing will come before the session of Congress of greater importance than the question of war finance. The reports indicate a palpable difference of opinion between groups of congressmen with respect to the relative merits of additional taxes and further bond issues, or with respect to what proportion of revenues shall come from the one and what shall come from the other.

Up to the present time there has been no difficulty in making appropriations for war measures, but the revenue measures have been difficult to agree upon, and the revenue measures of the last session do not seem to have settled the question of revenues to meet the Government's requirements up to the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1918.

This question of finance is one of tremendous difficulty because of the many elements which enter into it.

It is a scientific question which is easily beyond the congressional layman's comprehension.

It is one that invites the agitation of individual theories, which are seldom based upon solid information.

Even the treasury experts, headed by Secretary McAdoo, realize how tremendously difficult a problem which has to be approached from so many angles is bound to be.

In the presence of such a difficulty, it seems to *The Post* that President Wilson and Congress as well would find Colonel George Harvey's oft-reiterated suggestion of a board of counsellors of great service at such a time.

Unquestionably a board of financial advisers composed of distinguished financiers could render much aid in the solving of the financial problem.

Admittedly, one imperative necessity is to avoid the depreciation of any form of money in circulation. The redeemability of all issues in gold must be maintained.

It is likewise imperative to determine just what the bond assimilating capacity of the nation is, and in what proportions the money needed must be raised from loans and taxes.

Only the greatest and wisest financiers are able to solve such problems and surely their advice would be of incalculable aid to Congress.

Secretary McAdoo has already recognized the importance of such counsel in securing the services of Mr. Vanderlip, but even Mr. Vanderlip would welcome the counsel of other financiers.

The banks must handle the loans. They are the custodians of the

people's money. They ought to be consulted. It will not be with them a matter of profit, but a matter of conserving the credit of the country and keeping the war on a solid financial basis.

The war has reached the point where the counsel of the greatest statesmen and greatest financiers ought to be readily at the disposal of the President. He can not carry the burden alone, and his cabinet ministers are naturally absorbed in the work of their several departments.

The greatest minds of the country are at the disposal of the President for the asking, and, regardless of party affiliations, they could be summoned to the country's service—most of them without money and without price—just as Judge Lovett, Mr. Vanderlip and numerous other citizens have answered calls upon them.

And if there are those who require their expenses to be paid it would be money well expended.

Colonel George Harvey, who suggested this plan, has offered an idea of which the President has already availed himself partially. But surely Congress, with but little opportunity to know and comprehend the great questions entering into war finance and wanting to do what is best and safest, might find such a board of counsellors of much assistance in the work of formulating a financial policy adequate for all the country's needs.

There should be no further haphazard financial legislation. Congress should move upon known ground.

MORE STEAM CALLED FOR

(From the Burlington Free Press)

Colonel George Harvey asks in the current NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, "Are we losing the war?" That is a startling query for America. As we look at the subsidence of Russia, with the consequent probability that Roumania, cut off from all Allies, will also be forced out of the war, we echo the query. As we realize that every great military movement outside of France has been a German gain up to the present drive in Italy, we must concede there is ground for Colonel Harvey's startling question.

If, in spite of the tremendous expenditure of money by Americans, we are helping to lose the war, then manifestly, instead of blocking the wheels of the Wilson Administration in any way, we should insist that it put on more steam. That policy was found to be necessary in both England and France, as well as in Italy, to promote war efficiency. We are probably no exception to the rule.

After showing that all is not as easy as it would have been a year or six months ago, before Russia and Italy weakened, and that we are now in the darkest moment since the battle of the Marne, Colonel Harvey concludes: "But we do not despair; we are not even dismayed. Our mental gaze cannot pierce the cloud, but our moral vision tells us that its lining is of silver; it must be; and we shall find it, never fear. Are we losing the war? No. But we are not winning it—and we have far, very far, to go."

Those are timely words and pertinent, as Congress resumes its work. We have not only far to go, but there is much to do on the way. Congress must see to it first of all that our boys sent to training camps are not

made victims of pneumonia because of necessity of wearing summer khaki in winter owing to lack of material. If the Germans had shot as many of our boys as have died of pneumonia, the whole nation would now be up in arms. These and all other necessities at home must be attended to at once, instead of waiting. We must all put our shoulders to the military machine and help push it along. Otherwise we may be as late in reinforcing our own troops now in France as were the Allies in succoring Serbia, Roumania and Italy. In short, we must begin at once to work every possible weapon, military and naval, as well as political, if we would win this war decisively.

DIGNITY DEMANDED

(From the Union Township Dispatch)

Colonel George Harvey, who rendered the civilized world a great service when he unearthed Woodrow Wilson at Princeton ten years ago and brought him forth as a Presidential possibility, is still working might and main to undo his great service.

His latest grievance against the President is the sending of Colonel House to Europe to participate in the great Allied conference as the representative of President Wilson. Colonel Harvey does not feel that Colonel House measures up to the importance of the conference, and the *Camden Courier*, one of those typically partisan Republican newspapers of South Jersey, agrees thoroughly.

According to the *Courier*, it seems that the fact that President Wilson and Colonel House are chums disqualifies the latter for the important mission upon which he has been sent. While Colonel Harvey proved himself to be a good picker when he saw Presidential timber in the former Princeton chief, President Wilson has had a good deal of experience as a picker himself in recent years.

There are bigger men and more experienced statesmen in America than Colonel House, but he is evidently a man who is better able to grasp the Wilson viewpoint than some others, and the man who can carry out a Wilson plan is a more serviceable man than some who might suit Colonel Harvey. When Mr. Wilson chose Elihu Root to head the mission to Russia he showed that his selections were not controlled either by personal friendship or partisanship.

The country, and the entire world, should appreciate Colonel Harvey's great service in bringing Woodrow Wilson to the attention of his country at the time when the world needed just such a man, but, having done that, he should not permit personal grievances and disappointments to interfere with a full appreciation of what the President is doing. He should be big enough to make the best of it, and at least act with dignity.

THE POWER OF FAITH

(From the Columbia State)

In a recent article in *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, reprinted in the *Boston Transcript*, Colonel Harvey, in his own inimitable style, unbosoms himself of a credit and a debit column. He considers that the Executive

could have made a more brilliant choice than House for his pre-eminent position, but on the other hand he might have done worse. Putting "one's House in order" is always a ticklish job. He holds Lloyd George correct in all his criticisms, except in the absence of the one which he neglected to launch against his own "negligence in failing Italy in her hour of need."

He is sure that the cause of the Allies is worse off than ever before, except just after the Marne, but that there is as yet no reason for despair. He believes that the war will last for five years longer, but by that time we shall be able to fight in a more workmanlike manner. He sees the necessity of a generalissimo, but suspects that "there ain't no sich animile" available. Finally, he asserts what sounds like a confession of faith: "But we do not despair; we are not even dismayed. Our mental gaze cannot pierce the cloud, but our moral vision tells us that its lining is of silver; it must be; and we shall find it, never fear!" In plain English, he puts his trust in Providence.

It is always interesting to see the authoritative person bowing to a higher authority. If that pregnant little "it must be" means anything, it means that, like the rest of us, Colonel Harvey is daring the Universe to act in flagrant defiance of good and justice;—which is but a different way of trusting it to be on the side of righteousness. He is calling on that mysterious Something which, throughout history, from Babel and Marathon to the Marne, has put out a manifest command, "So far and no farther." But think of Colonel Harvey in the devotional attitude! What a triumph for the Unseen!

UNSOUND AND FAULTY

(From the Philadelphia North American)

That is the situation today—Germany reinforced by hordes of fresh troops and ready to launch a tremendous assault against her last powerful antagonists, Great Britain and France; among her people new confidence and strength of will, among the others the beginning of a feeling of weariness and uncertainty, manifested in profitless wrangling over "war aims" and unconcealed dependence upon American aid; and in this country a backwardness in preparation which is ominously suggested in the revelations now being made by the Congressional inquiry into our military affairs.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW offers a plausible theory to account for the last-mentioned condition. "The whole difficulty," it suggests, "is to be found in the secret hope, even anticipation, both in Washington and in London, that when this country, with its 'boundless resources,' should have been in the war long enough to make a tremendous showing by way of preparation, Germany would 'crumple' and the war would come to an end."

If that was the design it was not only unsound in principle but lamentably faulty in execution; for the showing which seems to us prodigious is still so far from being complete that it does not discourage Germany's effort nor mitigate its force in the remotest degree, and conceivably may be too late to counteract its effects and avert the world disaster of a Prussian peace.

COMPREHENSIVE AND FEARLESS

(From the Bookseller)

The war numbers of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* have increased the sales of the magazine to a remarkable extent. It is read by the discriminating reader, who wants a calm statement of fact and accurate information about the subjects discussed. Various world conditions and problems are commented upon in a way to illuminate, and the papers are written by the authors of note, experts, as it were, in their various fields. Not only does one get a broad survey of world events, home politics and biographical matter, but the literary output also comes in for its share of criticism and comment. It is one of the standard monthlies of the day, having maintained its position as the veteran periodical among the literary magazines of the times. The editor's articles are always dynamic in force and popular in appeal for Colonel Harvey hits from the shoulder and what he says about Americanizing America—in the current issue—merits a careful reading, for his ideas are as comprehensive as his English is fearless.

A CONSTRUCTIVE INDICTMENT

(From the Financial News)

If you want to know the real cause of the "mysterious liquidation" which has demoralized investment confidence you will find it in the brilliant editorial of the December issue of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, headed "Are We Losing the War?"

Every patriot should read and pass it along.

Colonel George Harvey has completely "kicked over the traces" of censorship and, in a powerful, merciless and constructive indictment, has exposed incompetence, heretofore concealed by the cloak of secrecy, that has been responsible to a large extent for the failure of the Allied conduct of the war.

It is a patriotic, exhaustive and constructive arraignment of the highest type, combined with a clarion call to Americans to substitute instant action for wordy delay, if we hope to avoid defeat.

Great powers lie behind it.

BROADWAY AND FLANDERS

(From the Churchman)

In the death last week of Walter Dorsey Davidge, who for twelve years had been head usher at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, in New York City, we are reminded of the needless toll of human life exacted every year from reckless driving of automobiles. Mr. Davidge was run over while crossing a street. In New York City alone over eight hundred persons were killed last year in this way. Mr. Harvey, in the October number of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, may have been indulging in rhetorical exaggeration when in reviewing percentages of deaths among the soldiers at the front he said that it was more perilous to cross Broadway than to face the enemy. The utter indifference and callousness of

the American public regarding accidents is one of the weak spots in our national easy-going temperament that will need eradicating before our democracy can be made safe for its citizens.

AN ENGLISH VIEW

(From the London Shipping World)

Colonel Harvey's essays in THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW are orations, and Mr. Asquith's orations are essays. In both cases the literary products are powerful, timely, convincing. Colonel Harvey opens our eyes, we admit, in respect of the toll of death in the present War. The truth is, he says, that the death toll exacted by modern warfare is immeasurably smaller than ever before in history, and has decreased steadily since the fighting began. He deals with such scheming, insincere men as La Follette, who is fouling his own nest, without gloves; and very properly speaks of pacifists as traitors. Indeed, they are the meanest, the most objectionable class of traitors to be encountered in the world, and Britain has more than her share of these enemies of their country.

MORE LIGHT WANTED

(From the St. Louis Mirror)

Without undue alarm a more unsuspected supporter of the President than Colonel George Harvey may agree in all loyalty that, as he says in the current NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, "this is the darkest moment since the battle of the Marne." There is no occasion for panic. But there is occasion that the people should be told more than they have been told about the situation. It is time to disabuse their minds of the idea that when we went in the war was all over. When the people realize the truth they will come to the support of the Government in a spirit that will assure limitless sacrifice of things they are as yet loth to forego.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR DR. CLARK

(From the Hartford Courant)

The appearance of George Harvey's NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW is always an event. Its outside papers are thoughtful, and the contributions by its editor are brilliant and audacious and, of course, finely written and thoroughly entertaining.

"TONE"

(From the Johnstown Democrat)

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW may yet be obliged to follow the *Masses* and the *Call*. Neither of these has been worse in "tone" than Colonel Harvey's great monthly.